

June 2006

NORTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Lieutenant Jerry Seevers

## Overview

The Northern Command faced a very challenging month. There were numerous personnel changes and losses that caused the command to have fewer troopers on proactive patrol. The loss of personnel affected all three districts within the command. There were retirements, transfers to other divisions, military duties, training and scheduled leaves to try to fill.

Total crashes increased by 2.9% over last month. The good news is that there was a reduction of 7.8% over last year with the completion of several major road construction projects in the Reno and Carson urban areas. Injury crash rates also increased an identical 16.4% over last month and last year. The region investigated 4 fatal crashes this month. The fatal crashes were scattered across the command with no trend or correlation to each other.

Enforcement efforts declined in every category when compared to last month, and almost every category when compared to last year. As stated above, with the sudden shortfall in troopers available to conduct proactive patrol, there is an effect of fewer citations being issued. The region troopers are working overtime staying late after shift and on their days off to ensure the citizens are afforded minimum safe coverage levels and service.

The next few months will be very trying on the personnel of the Northern Command. New transfers and new hires will be reporting for duty over the next 4 months. It will take time and dedication to adequately train those new officers before they become fully productive. In the meantime, the troopers continue to be dedicated to the mission of traffic safety.

The front office staff has finally reached full staffing and is looking forward to being able to conduct normal business.

Dispatch remains short staffed, as the hiring process has not been able to keep up with resignations. The remaining staff in dispatch continues to work a lot of overtime to ensure adequate staffing levels for public service and officer safety.

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## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	June 2006	June 05	% Change	May-06	% Change
Total Crashes	355	385	-7.8%	345	2.9%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	216	265	-18.5%	226	-4.4%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	135	116	16.4%	116	16.4%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	4	4	0.0%	3	33.3%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	24	18	33.3%	24	0.0%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	4	4	0.0%	3	33.3%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1	1	0.0%	0	100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	0	1	-100.0%	2	-100.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	1	1	0.0%	0	100.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1	1	0.0%	0	100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	31	20	55.0%	24	29.2%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	26	18	44.4%	13	100.0%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	5	2	150.0%	11	-54.5%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0	1	-100.0%	0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.1%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 6.8%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 50.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 8.7%

### CRASH ANALYSIS:

Total crashes increased by 2.9% from last month, but decreased by 7.8% from last year. There was a drop when compared to both periods in property damage crashes. There was, however, an increase in reported injury crashes of 16.4% for both periods. There was 1 more fatal crash when compared to last month but the same number when compared to last year. Commercial vehicle crashes increased significantly when compared to last month and last year, although they are still a relatively same number, 8.7%, of the total number of crashes. The Commercial Enforcement Section is continuing its aggressive enforcement efforts to curtail commercial vehicle involved crashes.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	June 06		June 05	% Change		May-06	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	23		18	27.8%		24	-4.2%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	79		84	-6.0%		102	-22.5%
Other Arrests	448		466	-3.9%		515	-13.0%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	202		204	-1.0%		246	-17.9%
Speed violations	1878		1961	-4.2%		2130	-11.8%
Hazardous moving violations	598		748	-20.1%		744	-19.6%
Occupant restraint violations *	345		405	-14.8%		417	-17.3%
Total violations [above violations included]	4849		5246	-7.6%		5830	-16.8%
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	42		5	740.0%		50	-16.0%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	49		63	-22.2%		58	-15.5%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	662		730	-9.3%		884	-25.1%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	4		1	300.0%		0	400.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	220		356	-38.2%		391	-43.7%
Total safety violations -- repair order	2303		2062	11.7%		3019	-23.7%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	94		153	-38.6%		109	-13.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	62		63	-1.6%		80	-22.5%
Total school buses inspected	24		52	-53.8%		189	-87.3%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	4		25	-84.0%		45	-91.1%
Total trucks weighed	693		160	333.1%		619	12.0%
Total overweight citations	40		36	11.1%		60	-33.3%
Total dyed fuel inspections	307		520	-41.0%		538	-42.9%
Total dyed fuel citations	5		4	25.0%		4	25.0%

\* Seat belt and child restraint

\*\* Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

### FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

June turned out to be a difficult month in the area of enforcement. The primary reason for the drop in activity is the drop in available manpower. Every district in the Northern Command lost personnel this month. Several troopers retired, several are on extended medical leave, several remain on military assignment, and several have been transferred to other divisions. There are transfers pending and new officers coming into the region over the next few months, however, it will take time to train those new officers before they are effective in the area for enforcement and crash reduction.

## **RENO URBAN TRAFFIC**

The Reno Urban area's staffing continues to be plagued by inter-department transfers, light duty assignments, special enforcement assignments and military leave. A total of 32 Troopers were available during the month of June. This total does not take into consideration extended sick leave, training assignments and special events.

The urban area crash statistics showed a 9% increase over last month but a 6% decrease over the same period last year. No specific crash trends could be identified through the individual shift crash logs. Sixty two percent of the crashes were property damage only while thirty seven percent were injury or claimed injury crashes. There was one fatal motorcycle crash, which resulted in one fatality.

Of the 167 crashes this month, 8 were identified as being alcohol related. This was down by 38% from last month's high of 13.

With the limited manpower resources available, the total enforcement activity experienced an overall decrease over last month but still remained above the same period last year. The most significant change in activity occurred in the DUI category. During this period last year, the urban area troopers arrested 22 people for DUI. This month that number increased to 49 arrests, however, it was down significantly from last month's high of 75. This may be due in part to some of the high DUI enforcement producers switching to day shift.

Occupant restraint violations continue to increase despite the downturn in staffing. However, there seems to be no direct correlation between the increased enforcement efforts and the number of injury crashes reported.

The urban area will continue to deploy strategies toward education and enforcement whenever possible and as staffing allows. Next month, the Northern Nevada DUI Task Force will be funding two DUI Checkpoints over the Fourth of July weekend. In addition, we will providing manpower for a Joining forces DUI Checkpoint sponsored by the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety and hosted by the Sparks Police Department.

Unfortunately, a cross-country Zero Tolerance Speed Enforcement operation was relatively unproductive in Northern Command due to poor staffing levels.

## **CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN**

For the month of June, the Carson/Tahoe/Minden District showed an increase in overall accidents. CTM District showed an increase in injury accidents comparatively to last year and last month. However, property damage accidents decreased compared to last year as well as last month by 13.5% and 8.6% respectively. Additionally, DUI crashes increased comparatively to last month as well as last year.

On June 15, Dayshift responded to a fatal accident on SR 88. It was later determined the driver suffered a heart attack causing the accident, so it was down graded to a property damage accident. Swing shift also had a fatal accident on US 50 at Apache that was handled by S.I.R.T. with the swing units assisting.

CTM's enforcement activities have increased compared to last year by 4.5% and decreased from last month by 18.4%. DUI arrest and DUI arrest prior to crashes have both increased significantly compared to both last year as well as last month. Total persons arrested, other arrests and speed violations have increased compared to last year however have decreased compared to last month. Decreases are noted for both Occupant Restraint and Hazardous



Moving violations compared to both last year as well as last month. Again, due to scheduled leave, training as well as two (2) Troopers retiring unexpectedly, only day shift was capable of conducting four (4) directive enforcement assignments for June.

As noted in May, CTM has been experiencing various issues with the construction at US-50 East in the Dayton area. These issues range from extended traffic delays, congestion, poorly devised traffic routing, as well as various other issues. Due to the extent of this issue, residents have brought this issue to the Office of the Governor for review. CTM has been working with both NDOT and the contractor to minimize these issues. These issues do seem to be minimizing the problem; however, they are still present.

The CTM area has experienced staffing issues due to the loss of two (2) Troopers, training (both given and received) and leave. It is anticipated that the CTM area will be receiving a new trooper from Parole and Probation in July 2006. The officer should be operational by mid-October if training and PSTO goes according to plans.

## **FERNLEY/FALLON**

During the month of June, the Fernley/Fallon District reported a 7.3% increase in total crashes. This increase can be attributed to the 17% increase in the population growth; a trend in the Fernley area that has increased the property damage crashes over the past several months. Enforcement efforts continue to reduce the carnage on the highways resulting from crashes. Injury crashes decreased 12.5% compared to last year and 51.7% compared to last month. Fatal crashes remained equal to last year at two, with two associated deaths. Commercial vehicle crashes substantially increased, 180%, compared to last year. This increase reverses the decreasing trend of the past few months.

The Fernley/Fallon District's field enforcement efforts increased 3.6% compared to last year. DUI arrests prior to crash were up 16.7%, and DUI arrests from crash were down 66.7% compared to last year. These enforcement statistics are positive numbers even when considering that the district staffing levels decreased this month. In addition to the staffing level decrease, the training hours and personal leave use increased thereby decreasing the total hours worked by 10.3% compared to last year.

The Fernley/Fallon District began the month fully staffed, however, by the end of the month the Fernley office was down two of its six positions due to the divisional transfer of one position and an FMLA issue of another. These two positions represent a 33% decrease in the Fernley's staffing levels and a 12.5% decrease in the entire District's staffing level. The position on FMLA status is estimated to continue for the next two months and the vacancy created from the divisional transfer has no estimated date to be filled. These vacancies place additional duties on the remaining personnel. In addition, these vacancies will create voids in the schedule, increase call-outs and overtime assignments, and will reduce services to the motoring public.

The Fernley/Fallon District personnel will continue to provide the best possible service to the public with the tools and resources provided.

## **COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section is currently assigned 22 officers. However, during the month of June, the commercial staffing levels were down three people. One trooper was serving as an acting Sergeant on the Reno graveyard shift. The second trooper was on FMLA recovering from back surgery and the third trooper was on 4800 time recovering from a work related knee injury. In addition to the decrease in manpower, leave time accounted for 25.4% of the total time. In June, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section continued with its mandatory re-certification

training as well as new training in First Line Supervision and IPAQ. The time spent in training and instructing classes accounted for approximately 8.5% of the total time in June.

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section will meet or exceed the goals and objectives as stated in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan. At the end of June 2006, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section was ahead in its year-to-date goals in Level I/II/III inspections, Level II/III enforcement inspections, interstate/secondary roadway weight enforcement and compliance reviews. June is the ninth month of the Federal Fiscal Year and the last month in the federal third quarter. The year to date goal achievements percentage should be at 75%.

The Northern Command has achieved 91.45% of its Level I inspections, 100.10% of its Level II/III inspections, 285.88% of its Level II/III enforcement inspections, and 88.30% of trucks weighed on interstate highways. The region is still slightly behind in hazardous materials and motor coach Level II/III inspections. During the month of June, the Commercial Enforcement dayshift personnel targeted hazardous material vehicles and will continue to place enforcement efforts towards these deficiencies. It anticipated that all year-to-date deficiencies will be resolved by the end of July 2006.

In June, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section handled four property damage crashes. One of these crashes involved a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). The commercial section also assisted the traffic division with 22 other crashes. Out of 22 other crashes, five involved a commercial motor vehicle or school bus.

During the month of June, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section did not participate in the Southern Command Strike-Force (STEP) program. The Northern Command has completed four, of the required six, deployments to the Las Vegas area. The remaining two deployments are scheduled in July and August.

In June, the Commercial Enforcement Section completed three "Strike Force" operations that targeted high commercial motor vehicle collision areas. During these three operations, commercial enforcement personnel completed 90 inspections, 73 moving violations and 258 mechanical repair orders. In addition, thirteen drivers and/or vehicles were placed out-of-service.

In June, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section participated in a 72-hour Check-site in Elko. This is a nationwide program that occurs every year during the first week of June. The Northern Command Enforcement section personnel were assigned Swing Shift and completed 98 Level 1 inspections, 82 Level 2/3 inspections, 386 mechanical repair orders and 24 citations. In addition, 65 drivers and/or vehicles were placed out-of-service.

In July, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section is scheduled to conduct a joint check site operation with the California Highway Patrol at South Lake Tahoe.

## **AIR OPERATIONS**

The pilot was on leave for three weeks during June; consequently, it was a very light month in terms of aircraft activity.

The Northern Command aircraft flew 28.1 hours during June. Of this, 17.4 hours were enforcement related, 5.5 hours were spent transporting prisoners, 2.5 hours were spent on pilot requirements and NDOT used the plane for 2.7 hours.

Five speed enforcement missions were flown during the month, with a total activity of 263 citations. Of these, 194 were speed, 51 were non hazardous violations, 8 were hazardous moving violations and there were 10 seat belt citations issued. One violator was arrested for a felony drug warrant and one was arrested for a misdemeanor warrant. Five motorists were assisted.

Three prisoner transports were conducted. One prisoner was moved from Reno to Las Vegas for a DUI warrant, one was transported from Reno to Yerington and one was moved from Hawthorne to Fallon.

The plane was on static display for the Carson City airport open house on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The Public Information Officer's custom patrol vehicle was also on display for this event.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	June 06	June 05	% Change	May-06	% Change
<b>FRONT OFFICE</b>					
Accident Reports Processed	360	337	+6.82%	341	+5.57%
Arrest Reports Processed	260	176	+4.76	183	+42.07%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	21	15	+40%	8	+14.77%
Office Accident Reports Taken	18	23	-21.74%	12	+50%
<b>COURT / WARRANT</b>					
Warrants Received	566	554	+2.17%	716	-20.95%
Warrants Entered	450	301	+49.50%	452	-0.44%
Warrants Cleared	636	827	-23.10%	422	+50.71%
Warrants Validated	340	151	+125.17%	486	-30.04%
Citations Processed	3868	2598	+48.88%	3971	-2.60%
<b>COMMUNICATION CENTER</b>					
Radio Transmissions	113403	107269	5.72%	169428	-33.07%
CAD incidents	13994	13085	6.95%	21608	-35.24%

## FRONT OFFICE

For the first time since last year, the front office section is fully staffed. The new Administrative Assistant II is now fully processing local arrest reports. Sick leave decreased this period by 62%, with compensatory leave slightly increasing by 1.43%. Annual leave significantly decreased by 44%, while paid overtime decreased another 12.55% since the last reporting period. Overtime for pay is still being utilized for basic warrant entry, and second-checking, which totaled an extra 690 warrants entered this period. Training increased due to the front office supervisor training with the Evidence Tech who is vacating the position on July 3rd. She will now be performing Evidence and Supply ordering duties as well as continuing with front office responsibilities until the recruitment for the open AAIV position is completed.

Office reports taken have slightly increased to 18 for the month. Accident reports taken by troopers increased by 5.6% this period. Arrest reports significantly increased 42%. Incident reports taken by officers increased by 14.8%.

## **COURT WARRANTS**

Regular citations processed decreased by 2.6% from the last rating period. Warrant entry is current through the middle of February. One front office AAI is still being utilized as a trainer to the two new clerks in the warrants office on a daily basis. She has also been responsible for performing 7 court runs, processing 39 subpoenas for troopers, and handling 34 court documents with 31 court call-offs. She is also utilized for lunch and absence coverage in the front office.

There was a 21% decrease in new warrants received. Warrants entered decreased by 0.44% with new staff perfecting accuracy in the entry process. Clears increased this period by 51% and validations decreased 30%.

Goals for the administrative section: Court Warrants personnel will report to the PSDIV next month. The Evidence Vault Audit will be completed by the HQ Audit Team, and the front office supervisor will be able to complete Purchasing Training as well as Evidence Training with the Tech from the Investigations Division.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Northern Command Communication center is down 2 PSD I positions. We are awaiting background checks to attempt to fill those vacancies. One PSD I resigned in June and one remains in training. The PSD IV position has completed training and begun to work the Swing Shift position.

Total work hours lost decreased by 41.24% since last month primarily due to a decrease in annual and comp leave. It increased by 1.59% from the previous year due to a reduction in sick leave.

Compensatory overtime decreased by 27.94% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole increased by 70.41% when compared to the same period last year and decreased by 58% when compared to last month. The increases are due to the increased number of vacancies in the Center as well as increased leave taken. The coverage of vacant positions accounted for 17.69% of the comp overtime and 29.57% of paid overtime. The coverage of annual leave accounted for 21.77% of the comp overtime and 45.32% of the paid overtime. The remainder of the overtime was split fairly evenly for meetings, support activities, and sick leave coverage.

Radio transmissions increased by 5.72% over this period last year and decreased 33.07% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 6.95% over last year and decreased 35.24% since last month. The primary reason for the increase in transmissions is likely due to the new arrival of dispatch personnel as well as increased radio use by allied agencies. Increased reporting standards have also increased the use of CAD. The decreases over last month are primarily due to the decrease in weather related incidents and the natural downturn of call requests during the summer months.



## ***PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR***

The month of June was very busy as we attended numerous events throughout northern Nevada. We began the month by participating in a career and safety awareness day at the Pyramid Lake High School. Students were handed safety literature and they asked questions about the day-to-day activities of a state trooper. Personnel from our Northern Command also participated in 2 events involving the local groups of boy scouts. The Scouts had the opportunity to see our Mobile Command Center as well received safety presentations with special emphasis on seatbelt usage. Presentations were also given throughout the month at 4 drivers' education classes at area high schools and at the community college in Carson City. Students had the opportunity to hear about common accident causing violations, learn driving safety tips, as well as experience the fatal vision goggles which simulate alcohol impairment.

We were invited to, and participated in, the annual safety fair at IGT in Reno. Hundreds of employees had the opportunity to see a variety of public safety displays and speak to the members of the respective agencies.

Also during the month, public information officers from a number of entities in the Reno-Sparks area assembled for a meeting to get reacquainted as well as receive a tour of the Washoe County Emergency Operations Center.

We are continuing to provide five live traffic reports per weekday with News Channel 8 as well as two traffic reports Tuesday through Friday on 94.5 KUUB Cub Country.

As we approached the end of the month, the California Highway Patrol teamed up with other state law enforcement agencies, including NHP, along the entire Interstate 80 corridor from California to New Jersey for "Zero-Tolerance" to speeding on June 30<sup>th</sup>. A number of live and taped interviews were done prior to and the day of the event with the CHP and NHP public information officers. These interviews were done proactively to create awareness to our anticipated no excuses enforcement, as well as to educate the public on how speed magnifies the injuries in car accidents. This enforcement day was scheduled prior to the beginning of the four-day weekend for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July as a large volume of traffic was expected to be sharing the Interstate that day.

With the approaching holiday in July, we also received media inquiries for the upcoming administrative roadblocks scheduled on SR 445 (Pyramid Highway) in an effort to target those drivers who may be impaired due to alcohol or drugs. We will have an update for those check points next month as well continue to keep northern Nevada residents informed of our efforts.

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